

truly global legislation that will establish a responsible United States policy for addressing our country's long complicity in the export of death and disease.

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL).

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DEAL). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina? There was no objection.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AND STATE OF U.S. MILITARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to talk about national defense and the state of our military. It is a very important subject that does not seem to have received adequate attention lately.

In fact, the President this year devoted only one sentence in his entire State of the Union Address to the need to maintain a ready and modern force. Additionally, the President's 1999 budget proposes more than \$100 billion in new domestic spending, but it fails to provide one dime in increased defense spending.

The administration's budget request for defense in 1999, therefore, represents the 14th consecutive year of real decline in defense spending. I personally do not believe this is the right policy for our Nation, and I know from talking to citizens in eastern North Carolina that they do not think so either.

My constituents, like so many people throughout America, realize that having a strong national defense has played a critical role in the history of our country and that now is no time to have a weakened military. Maintaining a ready and modern force is like insurance for our Nation. None of us would want to drive our cars without having car insurance in the event of an accident, but we seem to be denied that same protection to our national safety and freedom.

There is clear evidence that we no longer have the military to fight in two regions at the same time. Considering the real likelihood of this situation, I think it is past time that we take a serious look at protection we are denying ourselves. Once diminished, our forces cannot rebuild quickly, and they are, unfortunately, already 32 percent smaller than they were just 10 years ago.

We have such fine men and women in our military today, but they are constantly faced with budget cuts and shortages despite so many base closings. Our pilots are not receiving the flying time they need to be thoroughly

prepared, and many are leaving the military at an alarming rate. All too often our troops do not have adequate equipment, and their morale is suffering.

I, for one, find this situation unacceptable. So many of our fellow countrymen have fought and sacrificed and even died so that we may have the freedoms we enjoy today. Yet we are, in effect, taking their bravery and sacrifices for granted by failing to adequately protect the safety and freedom they fought for.

The President has deployed over 25 times our forces during his tenure at a monetary cost that exceeds \$13 billion, and yet he continues to cut their budget.

The 1999 defense budget request, when measured in constant dollars, represents the smallest defense budget since the beginning of the Korean War in 1950. I hope that, as we proceed with this year's appropriation process, my colleagues in this Congress would join me in the fight to stop this reckless depletion of our military.

In the name of freedom, let us once again provide our Armed Forces with the resources they need to fulfill their mission of protecting this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, may God bless America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. UNDERWOOD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of talk recently about what we are going to do to save Social Security. I would report to my colleagues this evening, Mr. Speaker, that today the Social Security trustees presented their new analysis of when Social Security is going broke; in other words, when there is going to be less money coming in from tax revenues than is required to pay current benefits.

That projection indicated that we have maybe a year, maybe 2 years' additional time before less is coming in than is needed to pay benefits. I think today is a day that we should all remind ourselves of the real problem of Social Security.

The estimate continues that the unfunded liability or the actuarial debt of Social Security is over \$3 trillion. In other words, we would have to take \$3 trillion today and put it in some kind of an investment fund to keep Social Security going for the next 75 years.

The problem that we are running into, Mr. Speaker, is the demographics of Social Security. Social Security is a

pay-as-you-go program where existing workers pay in their taxes, and immediately those taxes are sent out to existing beneficiaries. Because of that and because demographics have changed in the last several years, there are fewer and fewer workers paying in taxes to support an increasing number of retirees.

Let me give my colleagues some examples of that changing demographics. In 1942 there were about 40 people working, paying in their Social Security tax for each retiree. By 1950 it got down to 17 workers working, paying in their Social Security tax for each retiree. Guess what it is today? Today, there are three people working, paying in their Social Security tax for each retiree. And the estimate is that by 2027 we will be down to two workers.

What has happened is there has been a decline in the birth rate after the so-called baby boomers. Then additionally, there has been an increase in the longevity or the length of time people are expected to live.

When we started Social Security in 1935, the average life span was 62 years old. So, therefore, since the retirement age was 65, that meant most people never lived long enough to collect anything from Social Security. Today the average life span at birth is 74 years old for a male and 76 years old for a female, but if one is I will use the word "fortunate" enough to reach retirement age 65, on the average, he or she will live another 20 years.

So what do we do about this pay-as-you-go system? How do we change it? The estimates are that there is going to be less money coming in as taxes than is needed for benefits as early as 2007 to 2013. Sometime in that time period, there is going to be less money coming in than is required to pay out benefits. The longer we delay in solving and coming up with a solution for Social Security, the more drastic that solution has to be.

I have the only bill that has been introduced in the United States House of Representatives that has been scored to keep Social Security solvent for the next hundred years. That is House bill H.R. 3082. But I also put in a companion bill a couple months ago, that is H.R. 3560, that says—in addition to keeping Social Security solvent for the young people and allowing them to own a private retirement investment account that bears money that if they die before age of retirement goes into their estate—this proposal says, "let us start using some of the surplus money that is coming into the Federal Government."

And we now expect the surplus this year, as we now define "surplus", to be upwards of \$40- to \$50 billion. So I say, let us start using some of that money to set up private investment retirement savings accounts for people that pay a FICA tax, for people that are working.